

Testimony of Gregory B. Allard, Vice President  
American Ambulance Service, Inc. &  
Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Senator Hartley and Representative Dargan and other distinguished committee members.

My name is Greg Allard and I am the Vice President of both American Ambulance Service, Inc which is located in Norwich, CT and of the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers.

My testimony today is related to Raised Bill No. 551, **AAC Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Service Volunteers Employed in the State.**

I would like to start by saying that I support the committee's efforts to support and promote volunteerism.

I also like the language in this bill that requires the employee to seek out prior authorization in order to leave work.

The one point of concern I have with this bill is related to the definition of "Employer". I strongly encourage you to consider modifying the definition with verbiage that excludes Police, Fire, and EMS. For example, "shall not apply to employers that are state or municipal police, municipal fire, or are paid of volunteer emergency medical service providers."

The intent of stressing this point is that the bill as proposed shifts the onus from a volunteer agency to another agency, where the vacancy is more likely to have a profound affect as the volume of services typically are higher.

As a career ambulance service provider we are contracted with hospitals and skilled nursing facilities to provide a vital component of the health care system, non-emergent inter-facility transfers. We also provide life saving emergency medical services to our primary services areas and to surrounding communities through mutual aid.

It is for the reasons I mention above that I urge the committee to consider modifying this bill because if it goes through as written it will disrupt the public safety systems in our state.

I would welcome anyone that feels compelled to ask more questions of me to please contact me at 860.886.1463.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory B. Allard  
Vice President